

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

**Please replace the paragraph on page 1, beginning at line 5, with the following amended paragraph:**

The present invention relates to a rubber composition for use in tires that improves cornering performance on snowy and icy roads and braking performance in the to-and-fro direction with reduced manufacturing cost, and more specifically relates to a pneumatic tire employing such a rubber composition.

**Please replace the paragraph on page 5, beginning at line 29, with the following amended paragraph:**

According to the present invention, from 5 to 100 parts by weight of silica are compounded per 100 parts by weight of a rubber component. The silica employed by the present invention can be any which is usually applied to general-purpose rubber. Examples of the silica are dry silica ~~white carbon~~, wet silica ~~white carbon~~, colloidal silica and the like used as a reinforcing agent. The wet white carbon is particularly preferable that contains hydrated silica as a main component.